## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /058 W

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EEC GW

SUBJECT: FRG RATIFICATION OF COUNCIL ACT ON DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

REF: BONN 8608

1. FRG LEGISLATION PERMITTING RATIFICATION OF THE COUNCIL DECISION AND ACT OF SEPTEMBER 20, 1976 WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE BUNDESTAG ON JUNE 16, AND THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUNDESRAT GAVE ITS APPROVAL TO THE RATIFICATION LAW ON JUNE 24. ACCORDING TO A FONOFF SOURCE, THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THAT PRESIDENT SCHEEL WILL NOW MOVE QUICKLY TO NOTIFY THE COUNCIL OF FRG RATIFICATION.

2. AS REPORTED REFTEL, THE GOVERNMENT HAD SUBMITTED A

PACKAGE OF THREE DRAFT LAWS TO THE BUNDESTAG (RATIFICATION OF THE COUNCIL ACT, A DRAFT ELECTION LAW, AND A LAW CONCERNING THE STATUS OF THE DEPUTIES). THE ORIGINAL PLAN HAD BEEN FOR ALL THREE BILLS TO BE ADOPTED SIMULTANEOUSLY.

3. THE DISPUTE AMONG THE PARTIES OVER WHETHER ELECTION LISTS SHOULD BE PREPARED ON A FEDERAL OR A STATE BASIS (REFTEL) CONTINUES, THUS MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPLETE ACTION ON THE ELECTION LAW ITSELF BEFORE FALL. THE DECISION TO BREAK THE RATIFICATION LAW OUT OF THE PACKAGE AND MOVE AHEAD ON IT AT THIS TIME IS A REFLECTION OF A BELIEF BY THE FRG THAT THIS ACTION WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE MOMENTUM WITHIN THE COMMUNITY FOR EARLY RATIFICATION BY ALL MEMBER STATES. STOESSEL

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